

TOPIC Zerbst AirfieldEVALUATION 25X1 PLACE OBTAINED 25X1DATE OF CONTENT 15 July to 20 August 1952DATE OBTAINED 25X1 DATE PREPARED 29 September 1952

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) 1 - 1 sketch on ditto

REMARKS

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1. The following air activity and aircraft were observed at Zerbst airfield between 19 July and 18 August 1952:

19 and 23 July. Eleven swept-back jet fighters fitted with auxiliary fuel tanks were counted at the field.

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27 July. Six swept-back jet fighters which were not covered with tarpaulins were parked in groups of two about 200 meters from the eastern end of the runway. (1)

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29, 30 and 31 July. individual swept-back jet fighters with auxiliary fuel tanks took off and landed at the field.

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2 August. Eighteen swept-back jet fighters including some planes fitted with auxiliary fuel tanks were counted at the field. These planes apparently were the only swept-back jet fighters parked outside the hangar.

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4 August. there was flying by swept-back jet fighters. The planes were fitted with auxiliary fuel tanks. individual jet fighters took off and landed at the field after nightfall. 25X1

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25X1

6 August. There was no flying throughout the day. two swept-back jet fighters were towed to the west end of the runway. After a short time, a small vehicle approached the left side of a jet fighter. Shortly afterwards the engine was started. The vehicle then moved to the other jet fighter and repeated the same procedure. The two jet fighters took off simultaneously in a right echelon formation with a distance of 30 to 40 meters between the two planes. (2) two sweptback jet fighters flew over the field coming from the west and subsequently landed at the field. (3) The aircraft were fitted with auxiliary fuel tanks. 25X1

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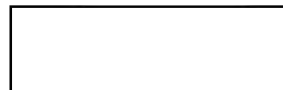
7 August. several jet fighters took off.

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12 August. In the morning, 21 swept-back jet fighters were counted at the field. Take-offs were made by 1 swept-back jet fighters and 2 swept-back jet fighters with auxiliary fuel tanks. The latter planes headed east. four swept-back jet fighters with auxiliary fuel tanks flew over the field in a four finger formation at an altitude of 500 meters. Subsequently, the planes landed within 3 minutes. two other swept-back jet fighters with auxiliary fuel tanks landed at the field and were towed by their tails from the runway and toward the hangars by trucks.

13 August. two swept-back jet fighters with auxiliary fuel tanks took off. fourteen swept-back jet fighters were parked at the field. (4)

2. About 50 fuel containers with an estimated capacity of about 200 liters each were located in the fuel dump. six earth bunkers which projected about 1.5 meters above the ground. (5)

3. On 27 July, the radio truck which was previously located near the radio installation at the municipal swimming pool was moved on top of an artificial elevation, consisting of debris; north of the swimming pool. A radio installation with two masts was observed in the southwestern corner of the field, north of the west end of the runway. The masts were interconnected with a twin-wire antenna. They had triangular frames on top. (6)

4. The target ranges were in poor condition and seemed to be out of operation. Trucks were observed entering and leaving the field.

Comments.

(1) The aircraft probably are the alert flight.

(2) The carriage apparently moves under its own power.

(3) It is believed that most of the aircraft are parked in the four hangars including the repair hangar. Herbst airfield is occupied by two fighter regiments and a fighter division headquarters.

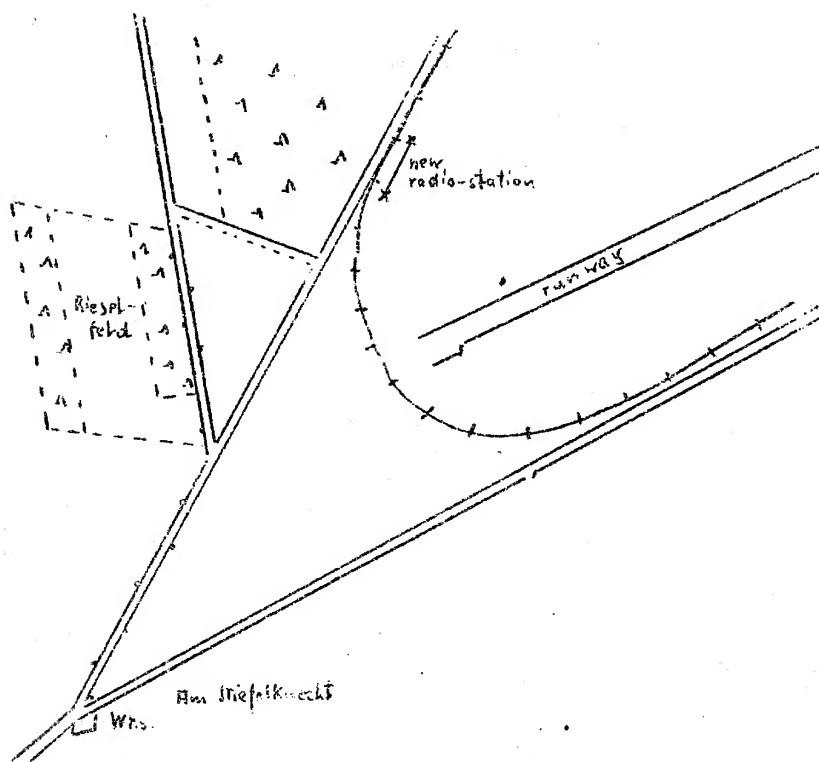
(5) The earth bunkers probably belong to the fuel dump.

(6) The radio installation near the municipal swimming pool was reported previously. The radio installation on the western edge of the landing field is reported for the first time. For location sketch, see Annex.

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Location Sketch of New Radio Installation at Zerbst Airfield



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